

# Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Mitigation & Preparedness

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Washington  
Military  
Department  
Emergency  
Management  
Division  
Camp Murray  
Washington

[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)

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## April is Washington's Preparedness Month; Drop, Cover, Hold drill set for April 21

Camp Murray, Wash. – April is Disaster Preparedness Month in Washington. Government agencies, businesses, schools and citizens will use Preparedness Month to review emergency response plans and to participate in the statewide earthquake drill April 21.

**The statewide earthquake drill will occur April 21 between 9:45 a.m. and 10 a.m.**

The drill will commence with a statewide Emergency Alert System message over radio and television stations about what to do when the ground starts to shake. The message will serve as signal for Washington residents to “drop, cover, and hold” for personal earthquake protection in their residences, schools and workplaces.

A Preparedness Month packet features a tsunami information poster, volcano awareness information, a homeland security preparedness poster, and material about how to use the 9-1-1 system for emergency aid. The packet contains information addressed to both children and adults.

The packet includes a new Disaster Preparedness Handbook that was developed by the Washington Emergency Management Division in partnership with the state Department of Health. The handbook discusses a variety of preparedness topics, including personal preparedness for emergencies, bioterrorism preparedness, home safety tips and preparedness for such natural hazards as wind storms and floods.

For further assistance with disaster planning and for Preparedness Month materials, contact your local emergency management office. A listing of those offices can be found on EMD's website at [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov). Preparedness Month Campaign materials also are available to download from the EMD website.

Barbara Everette Thurman, EMD public education manager, at (253) 512-7047, or Penelope Cassidy, at (253) 512-7016, E911 program public information officer, also can provide additional information and background on Washington Preparedness Month.

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